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EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

Not the Remedy

PROFESSOR FERRERO, in a learned paper, reaches, as a final conclusion, that the only way to avoid future wars is through disarmament. The only trouble about that is, his remedy is an impossibility at the present stage of the world's advancement.

He might as well say: "The only way to stop cyclones is to lock the winds up in their caves."

It required millions of years to fit this planet to become a dwelling place for man, and all the means employed were fierce and harsh. The earthquake, the tornado, the heat, the cold, the grind of the glacier, indescribable storms on the surface, fearful convulsions within, marked that formative stage. It is the same way that an imperfect civilization pursues its way. The redemption of a race from barbarism is not unlike the creation of a state in the wilderness. The hardships, the toil, the exposures to heat and cold; the driving back of the savage beast and the savage man; the heart-aches, the suppression of dreams and inspirations and innocent desires, sweet as the lovecalls of mating birds—on these the foundations of states are laid.

So when men and nations declare they are civilized and point to their great works and the great thoughts they give expression to as proof of their assertions, often they are but groping in darkness profound; their brains are enlightened but their hearts are filled with dark passions and fierce desires. If in man he is plotting to use his knowledge to ensnare his fellow man; if nations, there are dreams of conquest, of national aggrandizement at the expense of weaker nations, of arbitrary methods to secure a more extended commercialism and more wealth, and these lead up to a point where there can be no settlement except through war.

And in their pride and lust for power and gain they dare to call upon a just God to help them.

While this spirit dominates men and nations it is vain to say that disarmament would stop wars. The strong powers would not consent, the weaker powers would not dare to consent. The wars will go on; there are wrongs that can be righted in no other way save through war.

We can imagine but two ways through which wars can be stopped. One is when the instruments of destruction become so perfected that poor human nature can no longer stand up against them; the other when the innate democracy of the people shall so assert itself that thrones and scepters shall vanish away and the great parliament, that will represent the real minds and hearts of men, shall meet to fashion the decrees which an enlightened world will be glad to accept.

At the opening of the great new hotel last Saturday several people present were permitted to listen to a conversation that was being carried on by two men, one in New York, the other in San Francisco. They were permitted, too, to listen to an orchestra that was playing in a city 2,000 miles away. The listeners, at least some of them, felt the thrill of something beyond the voices and the music, as though voices long silent were about to speak; voices that had been struggling through the ages for a hearing were about to be heard, and that when they were, they would be like the still, small voice that was heard after the storm and the earthquake that rent the rocks had passed, and that it would be a voice for peace, and would be so potential that the nations would stop to listen and to obey.

We would think that the present unparalleled war was to be the final one, except that half the world is still in barbarism, in half the world that claims to be enlightened the great mass of the people are still in a condition of half serfdom, and their prayers for justice are being carried on unseen wires to the ear of the Infinite and they are yet to be answered.

In this connection we cannot help but believe that, considering the origin, career and position of our own country, it is possible that when our nation was born it was included in that plan that, at last, our nation is to be the final arbiter and under God to proclaim peace to the world.

Easter

TOMORROW will be Easter, the day that carries more hope to mankind than any other—the hope that this life does not end when the body falls back to dust, that death means only that one station has been reached and a higher one is to be sought for in the soul's progress toward perfection.

The day comes when the world is just arousing itself from the winter's sleep and all the promises of another spring are bright with the first flowers, and joyous with songs of birds. The day should be welcomed with solemn joy and in the hearts of men should be that hope and peace that comes with the belief that the end is not here. On this day earth is glad and heaven is filled with gladness for earth's sake.

War's Limitations

THE reports say the kaiser insists that he must capture Paris. From London comes the insistence that there must be no truce until the terms can be dictated by the Allies in Berlin. From this distance neither desire will be realized. It looks as though Austria was going to be crushed, or at least that Hungary is about to be overrun; as though the Turkish empire was to be dismembered and crushed, but when the Allies take the offensive and directly assail the Germans on their own soil, after the experiment is pushed for a few weeks, both sides which fought all through the cold winter will want to rest through the heat of the summer. And that the fiercest fighting will be over by the first or middle of June. This is based

entirely upon an estimate of how much a people, not an army can endure. There will come a time when the people, behind the armies, will begin to ask: "Has there not been enough bloodshed, enough ruin wrought?" "Are not the dead numerous enough, have not the full quota of hearts been broken?"

Of course, no one can estimate how the accidents of war may affect the result. A great sea fight might decide the war in a day; a fight which would result in the annihilation or capture of a fleet and break utterly the sea power of one side; but we do not believe that the war can last until one or the other side is utterly exhausted.

Business Combines

THE rule for several years has been to assume when men combine to enlarge their business, that they have become or are seeking to become a "loathsome monopoly" and to condemn them without a hearing. This has been pressed by the government until many railroads have been about stranded and many other forms of business sorely crippled.

This feeling is changing somewhat and the fact is beginning to be better understood that some things really require strong combines to make them successes. We notice that the big dry goods men of New York declare that lack of union causes them vast losses. In this connection, while our commerce is suffering greatly for want of an oversea American marine, as the matter has been permitted to drift in congress, we see no hope of its ever being established with Spanish America, where it is most needed, except through a combine of shipping men, manufacturers and merchants.

Five first-class steamships of about 3,000 tons burden each, would cost perhaps \$700,000 each, or \$3,500,000. Well equipped department stores at Pernambuco, Bahai, Rio, Santos and Buenos Ayres would cost as much more. Then about \$3,000,000 more would be required to keep the business up until returns began to come in. The trade would be mostly barter at first with all those ports except Buenos Ayres, and that would be half barter. The goods would be sold and payments made in rubber, coffee, sugar, tropical productions of all kinds known to commerce and even Buenos Ayres would supply hides, preserved meats, etc. It would require a year or two to get established and in running order, but it was through just such traffic that Germany established her gigantic trade in those countries, only at first the deficits were paid by the German government. The wants of South America of such wares as the United States produces are limitless. Salt meats and fish, household furniture, pianos, automobiles, agricultural implements, clothing, shoes, all the products made from oil, wheaten flour, hardware—everything almost. In return her raw products cover a wide range of articles that are necessities to our country.

The line of small ships running steadily would in a brief time begin to draw Americans to those southlands; they would begin to see and take in the opportunities there; they would be find-